

YARNS ABOUT THE WORLD'S NATIONAL PASTIME

By Billy Evans.

No player can bull a ball to left harder than Napoleon Lajoie. When Larry goes to the plate third-sackers, as a rule, play almost a short left field for him. Despite this Lajoie seldom resorts to bunting, although he might beat out many with the third baseman so far back.

Soon after Billy Purtell joined the White Sox his team played in Cleveland. Lajoie bunted and beat the throw easily. Purtell had heard much of Lajoie, but never had seen him in action, so decided he wouldn't be shown up by another bunt.

When Lajoie again stepped to the plate he feinted and saw Purtell coming in at a 10-second clip. The next ball was in the groove, and after feinting, Lajoie pulled the ball to left a mile a minute. Purtell, coming in, couldn't stop. He could not even defend himself and the ball struck him on the chest, dropping him as cleanly as a hard hook to the jaw.

The story of this experience spread and third basemen naturally became gun shy, with Larry up. The psychological influence of the play had its effect no



longer than last year, when Lajoie and Cobb were struggling for the batting championship of the American league.

In a double header at St. Louis Lajoie secured eight hits. Ordinarily this would not have caused more than passing comment, but it was believed for a time the bingles gave Larry the batting honor of the league and the automobile that went with it.

Five or six of the eight hits were perfect bunts along the third base line that Larry beat out. Corridon, a youngster, was being tried at third by St. Louis and the fact that he played a deep field helped Lajoie beat his throws.

The day after the game a newspaper man asked Corridon why he played so deep and the youngster replied:

It was the first time I had ever seen the 'big fellow.' I knew what happened to Billy Purtell and I decided I wasn't going to be crippled for life on the last day of the season. If I had come in on those bunts fast enough to throw him out, it's 10 to 1 he'd have cannon balled one at me. In that case you might be buying shoe strings from me to help a poor cripple instead of seeing me play ball."

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Star players are seldom content to play their position. Out-
"I give some advice" "I give some advice"